

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below-named inventor, we hereby declare that:

Our residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to our names.

We believe we are the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: **"Axial thrust balancing system for a centrifugal compressor, having improved safety characteristics"**

the specification of which:

- is attached hereto.
- was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____
- and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information which is material to patentability (as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56) in connection with the examination of this application.

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, 112, we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)		
ITALY	MI 2002A 002337 NOVEMBER 5, 2002	YES
Country	Application No.	Date of Filing

We hereby appoint Robert C. Lampe, Jr., Registration No. 27,915, of General Electric Company, 1 River Road, Building #37 - 5th Floor, Schenectady, NY 12345; and Erwin F. Berrier, Jr., Reg. No. 24,386, Jay Chaskin, Reg. No. 24,030, Henry J. Policinski, Reg. No. 26,621, Henry I. Steckler, Reg. No. 24,193, James W. Mitchell, Reg. No. 25,602, and Howard Vandenburg, Reg. No. 22,327 of General Electric Company, 3135 Easton Turnpike (W3C), Fairfield, CT 06431; and we also hereby appoint NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C., 1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor, Arlington, VA 22201-4714, telephone number (703) 816-4000 and the following attorneys thereof: Larry S. Nixon, Reg. No. 25,640; Richard G. Besha, Reg. No. 22,770; Paul J. Henon, Reg. No. 33,626; Jeffry H. Nelson, Reg. No. 30,481; John R. Lastova, Reg. No. 33,149; Stanley C. Spooner, Reg. No. 27,393; Jerry D. Craig, Reg. No. 38,026; Bryan H. Davidson, Reg. No. 30, 251; H. Warren Burnam, Reg. No. 29,366; William G. Niessen, Reg. No. 29,683; Alan M. Kagen, Reg. No. 36,178; Arthur R. Crawford, Reg. No. 25,327; and Michael J. Keenan, Reg. No. 32,106, jointly and each of them severally, my attorneys or agents and attorney or agent, with full power of substitution, delegation and revocation, to prosecute this application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to receive the patent and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. We hereby direct that all correspondence and telephone calls in connection with this application be addressed to the said:

Docket:

at Nixon & Vanderhye P.C., 1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor, Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone No.: (703) 816-

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that all such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Inventor's signature Leopoldo Baldassarre Date September 5, 2003
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